

AT HOME WITH THE WASTENOT FAMILY



Lexington-Fayette
Urban County Government
Division of Waste Management
Call LexCall at 311 or visit our Web site at
[www.lexingtonKY.gov/Environmental Quality/Waste Management](http://www.lexingtonKY.gov/Environmental%20Quality/Waste%20Management)



December 2010

What's your excuse for not recycling?

What would get you to recycle more? We surveyed 400 residents about why they do or do NOT recycle. Here's what some respondents said and our answer.

Citizen: If I better understood what is and isn't recyclable, I would be much more likely to recycle.

WM: What is accepted is printed on the top of the Rosie cart. Materials are also listed on our Web site,

www.lexingtonky.gov/recycle. In January you will receive a new *Waste Management guide* to further clarify what is recyclable.

Citizen: I would recycle if the city would provide the Rosies free.

WM: They do; to get one call LexCall.

Citizen: It takes too much time and effort to separate things.

WM: There is no separation. It all goes in together.



Our model fits the demographic of survey respondents under 35, earning between \$25,000 and \$50,000, who said they would recycle more if they knew what is and is not recyclable.

Citizen: There are too many rules to prepare items for recycling.

WM: Except for flattening cardboard

boxes and removing the harder plastic cap from bottles and jugs, there are no rules.

A full 11% of the people surveyed said they "just forget" or they're "too lazy." If you're in this group we hope you will resolve in 2011 to do two things:

- 1) Put all the paper that comes into your house in the Rosie. You could probably fill a Rosie with junk mail. The paper from the Rosie is sold and made into products such as tote bags, picture frames, vacuum bags, coffee filters, and clothing.
- 2) Never put an aluminum can in the garbage. That can has been made from alumina, which is imported from China. If you put it in the Rosie, it goes to a Berea plant and is eventually turned into a new can.

We'll tell you more about our survey in the months to come.

HOW TO CURB HOLIDAY WASTE

We produce 25% more waste beginning with Thanksgiving through New Year's. In Lexington, if we recycled 30% of the material that we send to the landfill in that period of time, we could recover 10,000 tons, save \$240,000 in landfill fees and earn \$1 million in revenue from the sale of recyclables. Below are ways to deal with some of the things that multiply during our holidays.

Christmas trees, pumpkins, and lights	Remove all decorations and place at the curb on your street's yard waste day. Other greenery can go into the Lenny yard waste cart. Pumpkins and gourds can also go in the Lenny. Unwanted Christmas lights can be dropped off at our e-waste location. See address below under electronics.
Holiday cards	Recycle in the Rosie. In the U.S. 265 billion holiday cards are sold each year.
Cardboard boxes	Remove all packing material, flatten, secure with twine, and place beside the Rosie. If you do not have a Rosie, place boxes on the curb on your street's recycling day. Styrofoam packing material cannot be recycled in the Rosie!
Gift boxes	Put them in the Rosie. NO WRAPPING PAPER, TISSUE OR PAPER RIBBONS; put those in the Herbie.
Catalogues and other paper	Holiday catalogues, newspapers, magazines, and all that junk mail should go in the Rosie. Do you know that the average household receives 142 catalogues during the holidays?
Styrofoam peanuts	Put clean Styrofoam peanuts in a plastic bag and drop them off at most mailing services (e.g. Mail Boxes, Etc and Mail Pro).
Electronics	When you get that new TV or computer for Christmas, don't put the old one on the curb. All electronics, such as computers, printers, hand-held games, cell phones, toasters, microwaves, TVs, CD and DVD players can be recycled at the LFUCG campus, 1306 Versailles Rd. Hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, noon to 4 p.m., and Monday, Tuesday, Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon.
Batteries	Rechargeable batteries from power tools, cell phones, etc. can be dropped off at the Recycling Center at 360 Thompson Road during business hours, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, 7 a.m. to noon.
Gift bags	Save and reuse! Shopping bags with a plastic coating cannot be recycled. Put them in the Herbie. Plastic bags, whether from a retail store or supermarket, cannot go in the Rosie; take them to Kroger or Walmart for recycling.

What is a grubby? Learn to compost and get one

Attend a workshop to learn how to compost, and you could take home a Grubby. Named after the grub, which is a lazy insect that likes eating leftovers, a Grubby is a small, plastic container for collecting organic waste in your kitchen. Mix organic waste with your yard waste, and you will have a rich compost to nourish your garden, plants, and lawn.

The Division of Waste Management has teamed up with the Fayette County Extension Office and the Fayette County Master Gardeners Association to conduct this free **home-composting workshop on Monday, February 21, 6:30 p.m.** at the Fayette County Extension Office, 1140 Red Mile Place. You can pre-register by calling LexCall, 311. The first 90 people to sign in at the workshop will receive a Grubby. Here's what you can remove from your waste stream by composting:

- * Coffee grounds/filters and tea bags
- * Paper towels and shredded paper
- * Vegetables and fruit
- * Rice, beans, and pasta
- * Bread and bakery items
- * Eggshells
- * Plants, leaves, grass, floral trimmings

Dawn Angarone, who lives in the south Tates Creek area, is certified by the state Division of Waste Management as a Compost Facility Operator. She moved from Chicago to Lexington to become a composting instructor. She helps farm owners with composting techniques to reduce the amount of muck they must dispose of. Here are some of the benefits Angarone lists for residential composting: It

reduces reliance on chemical fertilizers and herbicides, which also improves stormwater runoff from lawns, effecting an area's watershed. Sprinkling compost over your lawn controls erosion, reduces thatch buildup, and improves germination for re-seeding. Adding a layer of compost will also break up hard-clay soil. An actively maintained compost pile does not have an odor or attract flies, Angarone says. If an animal gets into it, well, they're just helping you turn it, she says.

At The Arboretum on Alumni Drive, master gardeners make compost in handcrafted wood bins and plastic bins called tumblers.



Dawn Angarone, who moved from Chicago to Lexington to teach composting, adds coffee grounds, fruits, vegetables, and egg shells to a Grubby.



Mark your calendar for these events

Saturday, January 8 & 15, 7:30 a.m. to noon

Mulch giveaway — One pickup truck load per person; offered on a first-come, first-served basis at the former LFUCG landfill, 1631 Old Frankfort Pike.

Saturday, January 15, 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Free garbage/bulky items dumping day — one pickup truck load per person at the Bluegrass Waste Alliance Transfer Station, 1505 Old Frankfort Pike.

Do you contribute to litter on your street?

Everyone wants their street and neighborhood to look good and be clean. When our automated trucks lift and dump a Herbie with unbagged trash, what's not bagged ends up on the street. City ordinance says trash must be bagged. You don't want to be the one that litters your street!

The Haley Pike landfill will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE

No garbage, recycling, and yard waste collection

Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Friday, December 31, New Year's Eve

Monday, January 17, MLK Birthday observed

Monday, February 21, Presidents' Day observed

Makeup day

Wednesday, December 22

Wednesday, December 29

Wednesday, January 19

Wednesday, February 23



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

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Inside: what
you can
recycle after
the holiday.

